

The Case For Space Society

Scenic Acres Astronomy Night Final Report

Event Details

Date: March 31, 2023

Time: 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m

Location: Monsignor E. L. Doyle School field

Attendees: around 80

Volunteers: 3

The Case for Space Society was responsible for organizing, advertising, and managing the event. Advertising consisted of posters distributed through the Scenic Acres Community Association, a post in the community newsletter, and a social media campaign. To ensure that there would be enough volunteers and telescopes to support the high number of expected attendees, we reached out to the Calgary Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to recruit volunteers. The volunteers were incredibly helpful and were crucial to the success of the event. In total, we had 4 telescopes set-up for the public to use.

The night started off with few clouds and the moon was in position for excellent views. We had people start to flow in before 8:30 while there was still some light out. Attendance peaked around 9:00 pm. We focused on the Moon and Venus as these were in prime position for the night. Many people were surprised by the level of surface detail visible on the moon, and kids seemed to enjoy it quite a bit.

Success Stories

While there were fewer overall attendees than the previous event in November, the people stayed for longer and had more opportunities to engage in extended discussion. A couple attendees asked about ways to further develop their interest, so we referred them to the Calgary Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. We also got quite a few questions from kids which led to some interesting conversations.

Feedback

We sent out a feedback form and received 9 responses from attendees. Here is a summary of the results:

- For 7/9 individuals, this event was the first time they participated in astronomy
- 6/9 individuals said they were 100% satisfied with the event, 3/9 said 80%
- All 9 individuals said they would want to participate in future astronomy events

- 5/9 individuals brought kids with them, and all of them said the kids were very fascinated with what they learned

One of the points of criticism we received was that there were not enough telescopes and people had to wait in line. Unfortunately we were not able to recruit more volunteers for the event, but we tried to keep as many people engaged as possible. One individual also stated that a strength of the event was that it was local and so it was easily accessible to them. This was good to hear because it is the problem we set out to solve with this project.

Improvements for Future Events

- More telescopes if possible
- Earlier end time

Images







